

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 LAGOS 03059 101632Z
ACTION AF-10

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FM AMEEBASSY LAGOS
TO USDOC WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7064

UNCLAS LAGOS 03059

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, NI
SUBJECT: METRIC LABELING

REF: LAGOS 2793

1. NIGERIAN STANDARDS ORGANIZATION (NSO) DIRECTOR, D. OGUN SPOKE BEFORE NIGERIAN-AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, MARCH 9, AND CLARIFIED RECENT ANNOUNCEMENT (SEE REFTEL) ON METRIC LABELING REQUIREMENTS.
2. OGUN STATED UNEQUIVOCALLY THAT ALL PACKAGED GOODS MUST BE LABELED SOLELY IN METRIC NOMENCLATURE AS OF APRIL 1, 1978. THIS INCLUDES DUAL LABELED GOODS ALREADY IN NIGERIA THAT WILL BE SOLD ON OR AFTER APRIL 1 AND GOODS CURRENTLY ON THE HIGH SEAS WHICH WILL ARRIVE ON OR AFTER APRIL 1. OGUN COULD NOT PRECISELY DEFINE "PACKAGE GOODS" BUT SAID THAT THESE INCLUDED GOODS PACKAGED FOR CONSUMER SALE, E.G., A BOX OF TACKS, BUT NOT INCLUDING UNWRAPPED OR UN-BOXED LARGER CONSUMER ITEMS, E.G. AUTOMOBILE TIRES. ALL NON-"PACKAGED GOODS/ CAN CONTINUE TO HAVE DUAL LABELING FOR MOMENT ALTHOUGH OKUN SAID THAT DUAL LAEBLING WOULD NOT BE PERMITTED IN-DEFINITELY.
3. NIGERIAN BUSINESSMEN AND EMBOFF RAISED OBJECTION SAYING THAT GOODS ALREADY ON HIGH SEAS OR IN NIGERIA SHOULD BE UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 LAGOS 03059 101632Z

EXEMPT FROM REQUIREMENTS, BUT OGUN REMAINED FIRM. IN POST-MEETING DISCUSSION AMONG NIGERIAN BUSINESSMEN AND EMBOFF, CONSENSUS WAS THAT IMPORTERS WOULD BE ABLE TO TALK IN ARRIVING IMPORTS PAST CUSTOMS AGENTS AND AFFIX METRIC LABELS ON AFFECTED GOODS BEFORE SALE. THEY ARE ALSO STARTING CRASH PROGRAMS TO RELABEL AFFECTED GOODS NOW IN STOCK. FYI: OGUN EARLIER SAID THAT METRIC LABELS COULD

BE AFFIXED ONTO DUAL LABEL PACKAGES TO MEET REQUIREMENTS.

4. ACTION REQUESTED. EMBASSY SUGGESTS USDOC ADVISE U.S. EXPORTERS OF PACKAGED GOODS TO IMMEDIATELY COMPLY WITH METRIC ONLY REGULATION. ALSO ADVISE FIRMS WITH DUAL LABELED PACKAGED GOODS ON HIGH SEAS TO APPRISE THEIR NIGERIAN DISTRIBUTORS OF SITUATION.
EASUM

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